

Message Text

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72

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: INTENSIFICATION OF ANTI-SOVIET ARTICLES IN CAIRO PRESS

REF: CAIRO 1832

1. SINCE SADAT'S ALEXANDRIA SPEECH, (REFTEL), IN WHICH HE LISTED THE NUMBER OF TIMES DURING PAST THREE YEARS WHEN SOVIETS HAD FAILED TO DELIVER NEEDED MILITARY WEAPONRY OR INSISTED TO EGYPTIANS THAT THERE COULD BE NO MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT, THREE PRESS ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED DEALING WITH EGYPTIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS. FIRST, WHICH APPEARED IN AHRAH MARCH 5, WAS WRITTEN BY AHMAD BAHAEEDDIN, ONE OF EGYPT'S MOST WIDELY READ AND RESPECTED WRITERS. ARTICLE IS LOW KEY REVIEW OF EGYPTIAN FOREIGN POLICY OVER LAST TWENTY YEARS WHICH NOTES THAT USSR HAS GENERALLY BEEN FIRST TO RECOGNIZE DEVELOPMENTS IN THIRD WORLD AND CHANGE ITS OWN POLICY ACCORDINGLY, BUT ADDS THAT BASIC ENDEAVOR OF

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EGYPT IS TO FREE ITSELF OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE AND ACT INDEPENDENTLY

IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

2. SECOND ARTICLE IS FRONT-PAGED AND HEADLINED IN APRIL 6 AKHBAR AL-YAWM, WHICH TAKES RADIO MOSCOW TO TASK FOR RECENT ARABIC-LANGUAGE BROADCAST IN REPLY TO SADAT'S SPEECH. AKHBAR STATES THAT RADIO MOSCOW SPOKE ABOUT SOVIET ASSISTANCE, AND PARTICULARLY ARMS ASSISTANCE, TO EGYPT AND ARABS, BUT "INTENTIONALLY IGNORED" FACTS ABOUT CAUSES OF DELAY IN OCTOBER WAR(I.E., THEIR OWN PROCASTINATION) AND THE "AGREEMENT ON MILITARY RELAXATION" BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND BREXHNEV.

3. THIRD ARTICLE ALSO APPEARS IN AKHBAR AL-YAWM. WHAT IS WRITTEN BY IHSAN ABDEL QUDDUS, WHOSE ARTICLES ABOUT EGYPTIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER EXPULSION OF SOVIET ADVISORS IN 1972 WERE DIRECTLY AND PERSONALLY INSPIRED BY SADAT. PRESENT ARTICLE SHARPLY CRITICISES SOVIETS FOR LAUNCHING ANTI-EGYPTIAN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING "PROTESTING AND INCITING" OTHERS TO STATE THAT EGYPT WAS DEPENDENT ON US FOR CLEARING OF CANAL DESPITE FACT THAT RECENT GROUP OF SOVIET EXPERTS SHOWED NO INTEREST IN CLEARING THE CANAL WHEN THEY WERE HERE. QUDDUS ADDS THAT SOVIETS HAVE PAID NO ATTENTION TO ARTICLE SEVEN OF EGYPTIAN/SOVIET TREATY WHICH CALLS FOR CONSULTATIONS

ON ALL IMPORTANT MATTERS RELATING TO INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES AND HE STATES THAT EGYPT SHOULD ADOPT THE SAME STYLE OF POLITICAL BEHAVIOR AS THE USSR, WHETHER OR NOT THIS AGREES WITH SOVIETS.

4. COMMENT: THIS HAS BEEN A TOUGH WEEK FOR SOVIETS IN EGYPT. FIVE TIMES DURING PAST WEEK THEIR POLICY HAS BEEN PILLORIED IN PUBLIC; IN SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH AN-NAHAR, PUBLISHED IN CAIRO; IN HIS RECENT SPEECH; AND IN ABOVE THREE ARTICLES. MOREOVER, WHERE SADAT DELIVERATELY AVOIDED MENTIONING PRESENT SOVIET POLICY DURING HIS ALEXANDRIA ADDRESS, GOE-DIRECTED CAIRO PRESS IS COMING CLOSED TO THE MARK.
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